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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 AID-05 /071 W
---------- 110028
R 130443Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9848
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2594

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XC, MY
SUBJ: ASEAN NEUTRALITY SCHEME

1. IN CONVERSATION MAY 12 WITH PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPE AND AMERICA AFFAIRS SATHIAH, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE TODAY IRONING OUT FINAL POINTS OF DRAFT NEUTRALITY SCHEME FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA. DRAFT IS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS TOMORROW WHERE MALAYSIANS THINK IT WILL BE INITIALED BUT NOT SIGNED UNTIL NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND/OR LEGISLATURES HAVE A CHANCE TO REVIEW IT. SATHIAH SAID ONE OF THE FEATURES OF THE DRAFT AS IT NOW STANDS IS PROVISION FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, I.E. VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, LAOS, BURMA, TO JOIN THE SCHEME WITHOUT BECOMING AFFILIATED WITH ASEAN. THERE ALSO ARE PROVISIONS FOR STEPS TO OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE SCHEME INCLUDING ITS SUBMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

2. COMMENT: MALAYSIAN MFA HAS ALWAYS BEEN MORE BULLISH ON NEUTRALIZATION (NOW REFERRED TO BY MALAYSIAN PLANNERS AS NEUTRALITY) FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA THAN OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENT
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MINISTRIES. HOWEVER, BOTH SATHIAH AND UNDERSECRETARY FOR

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POLICY PLANNING BEN HARON SEEM CONVINCED THAT IT WILL BE
ACCEPTED BY THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTRIES AT THIS SESSION.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

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